THE WORKERS'

DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism

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MILITARISM *v.* SOCIALISM IN ITALY

By our Special Correspondent.

Italy is a poor country, made poorer by the war. The Italian Government is short of money; it cannot pay its debts. On every hand one encounters unpleasant and harmful economies imposed by necessity. The telegraph offices on the railway platforms are no longer open for public use. The railway tracks are neglected; great weeds grow there; the ground has become uneven, and stones and soil threaten to cover the rails, which seem, in places, to have sunk from their proper level; paint and repairs are lacking; one sees splendid old buildings decaying for this reason; in all public offices queues of people wait for hours because of the shortage of officials. But on one thing Government expenditure is lavish: soldiers throng the streets and the number of officers is extraordinary. It is said that more than 60,000 officers are attached to a body of troops with which the normal staff of officers would be 11,000. These officers are splendidly dressed in diverse gay garments, brilliantly coloured, fantastically cut, blue combined with scarlet, orange with black, and so on; the clothing of operatic soldiers, but all of the finest cloth, and perfectly new, immaculately tailored. The officers swagger about all day and into the small hours of the morning, idling in the cafés, marching with overbearing airs through the streets.

Much in evidence too are the Arditi, a force first enlisted during the war. The Arditi are dressed in the grey-green that takes the place of British khaki; their distinctive marks are a black collar, a poinard worn in front, and a general bearing of indiscipline, an untidiness in their dress, a somethingslovenly, something almost insolent in their gait.

During the Socialist Congress at Bologna, the Mayor, a Socialist at the head of a Socialist majority in the Municipal Council, invited the delegates to spend an evening with him in the magnificient Town Hall, the Palazzo Communale, as it is called.

In the great square before this municipal palace a great crowd of people waited to see the Socialist delegates enter. The palace was prepared with lavish hospitality. Near the entrance was an enormously long, long table spread with cakes and fruits and wine, and decorated with red flowers. Upstairs were gorgeous apartments, gilded chairs and sofas upholstered in red brocaded satin, wonderful red carpets with thick soft pile. pictures by Guido Reni and other famous painters, statuary and mosaics. In almost every room were tables spread with refreshments.

Presently a message came that the people of Bologna were waiting outside and wished

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The ALBERT HALL MEETING AND MRS. BESANT.

I. Mrs. Besant poses as the protagonist of the people of India as against the Government, but she has stated in interviews with the "Daily Mail" that she has come over here to help the Government to pass a Bill of Mr. Montagu's which enfranchises 1.5% of the population. We wish to ask Mrs. Besant the following questions:—

Was the Albert Hall refused in the first instance to her?

Did the authorities of the Hall write to the India Office, and did they learn from there that they had no objection to the letting of the Hall to Mrs. Besant, as she had come over here to help the Government?

II. Whom does Mrs. Besant represent in India? The Indian National Congress, the most representative body in the country, is not having her on their deputation which is now in this country. The All-India Home Rule League which she herself founded has turned her down and in order to come to this country she formed a National Home Rule League consisting of forty of her spiritual disciples ten days before she left India. These estimable gentlemen would join an Anti-Home Rule League for India at Mrs. Besant's dictation, if necessary.

III. Does not Mrs. Besant represent the capitalist classes and the vested interests of India? Did she not publish in the "Daily Herald" of June 12th a letter from the Bankers, Merchants and Traders of Madras, nominating her as their representative in this country to lay their loyalty at the feet of His Majesty? Has she done so?

IV. Has she ever advocated a Socialist programme in India? Has she ever advocated the minimum wage and an eight hours working day in India, and the nationalisation of land, and the means of production, in any letter or speech written or delivered by her? Is she prepared to do so now? and will she find her financial support, where she had hitherto found it, if she does?

V. Did she not stand out against the extension of the Franchise to the masses of India? Did she not fail to advocate the same when she gave evidence before the Joint Committee? Did she not express her satisfaction with the Franchise proposals as they stand in the Montagu-Chelmsford Bill?

VI. After coming to this country has not Mrs. Besant continually been traducing the Indian democrats as aided by German gold and Bolshevik money? Has she any evidence of that? If so, why did she not place it before the Government?

VII. Did she not justify the Rowlatt Star Chamber Act of India in her paper? Did not Mr. Montagu cite her in the House of Commons in support of this Act, when questioned by Colonel Wedgewood on this matter?

VIII. Did she not write in her paper "New India' in respect of the bombing of people from aeroplanes and of shooting people in broad daylight: "As it is the duty of civilised Governments to keep law and order, brick bats must be always answered by bullets as the other day in Glasgow"? Has she ever, in the course of her speeches in this country, drawn attention to these atrocities?

IX. Does Mrs. Besant stand to-day for India's immediate right to self-determination, and complete Home Rule as a free and equal partner in the British Commonwealth with other Dominions? If so, is she prepared to advocate the withdrawal of the British Army and Navy from India, with a view to the free exercise of this right by India.

X. Has this meeting been summoned by Mrs. Besant in consultation either with the Indians resident in London or with the various Indian Deputations now here. If not, on what authority does she speak in the name of India?

Workers of Britain, do you not see that Mrs. Besant's propaganda is avowedly reactionary? It is helping the Government in the Government's fight against the people. The toiling millions in India look to you as comrades to leave them to fight their own battle for those very rights for which you are fighting, and trust that you will not be misled by the emissaries of the vested interests who now parade England in the name of India. The representatives of the Indian people now in England look to you for help to remove the bureaucratic tyranny which now sways unlimited power over the lives of their people, and to save their Nation from that destruction which is bound to come upon it if the vested interests of Europe are still to continue their sway.

C. L.

MILITARISM v. SOCIALISM IN ITALY.

Continued from front page.

to enter; so the way was thrown open, and the people poured into the palace, singing the 'International' and a number of Italian Socialist songs. Perhaps the invasion was not very good for the rich Turkish carpets, but carpets are for use, and if at the end of the evening they seemed a little the worse for wear, that was a minor matter. Those of the people who could not find room in the palace stayed in the courtyard. A band played there and speeches were delivered from the windows.

Whilst all this enthusiastic enjoyment was going forward, the Arditi began to gather in the square outside, and presently 200 of them, under the orders of an officer, formed up in line before the entrance to the palace, whilst others attempted to force an entry. The people resisted this invasion; blows were exchanged; one of the Socialists, Comrade Altobelli, was knocked senseless and removed to hospital.

The Mayor came out to discover the cause of the trouble, and calling the comrades to accompany him, marched to the centre of the square, and took his stand under the great equestrian statue of Victor Emanuel.

A man with a great voice then shouted: "Now speaks the first citizen of Bologna," and the Mayor announced that he and his guests would neither re-enter the palace nor leave the place where they stood until the troops were withdrawn from the palace, the last refuge of civic liberty.

This message was taken to the military authorities, who finally decided to withdraw the Arditi, whereupon the Mayor and the people re-entered the palace in triumph.

The Arditi had withdrawn, but well on into the night companies of them were to be seen marching, in a loose slouching way, up and down the streets, passing and re-passing the same spot. Each company was in charge of an officer. The Arditi, who are paid much more highly than other soldiers, get an extra bonus when they are sent out on such adventures.

From such interference of the Arditi in civilian affairs, it might be thought that Italy lacks police. On the contrary there are three distinct kinds of police, who are present in large numbers, for the purpose of keeping in order the civilian population, or, to speak the actual truth, the working-class.

First there are the Guardie Municipale, the Municipal police, paid by the Municipality. They regulate the traffic and keep general order. Secondly there is a police force paid by the Government, the Guardia di Publica Securezza. This is not called a military force, but its members are armed with a pistol, a sword and handcuffs. Attached to this uniformed force, is the plain-clothes force, the "squadra mobile." This body of police works under the Questore, a political civil authority, of which there is one for each province. The head of each Questore holds his position at the will of the Home Secretary, and in practice these officials are frequently changed at his orders.

Thirdly there are the Carabinieri, who form a semi-military police force, working under its own chief and maintained by the Government. The Carabinieri wear cocked hats and a uniform of Napoleonic character. They are armed with a sword and pistol, the weapons they carry as a rule. They also have rifles and bayonets, and handcuffs of course. Their business is to arrest criminals on warrant or those caught red-handed.

Like all the other police, they charge the people at times.

But this is not all; the Prefetto, or sheriff of the country, may, at his own discretion, withdraw all the local soldiers from military control and place them under the civil authorities for use against the people. This is tantamount to declaring Martial law, and the sheriff has the right to do this, if and when he thinks it advisable. The only protest the public can make against such an order is to get a question asked in Parliament, which the Government is not compelled to answer—so much for popular liberty under a democratic Parliament.

Watching the quiet, orderly people following their peaceful work or day life, and seeing these enormous numbers of soldiers and armed policemen, keeping guard over them, one realises that all this force is kept up to maintain the capitalistic system, to keep the workers to their labours and to prevent them getting more of the things they make than the master class wishes. It is an extraordinary picture—more vividly staged in Italy than in Britain—but the same thing obtains everywhere. If the workers should wake up to the fact that all these guards, for whose upkeeping they toil, are there to keep them enslaved, surely they would sweep the whole system away in a passion of protest.

PUBLIC HEALTH UNDER THE SOVIETS.

La Nouvelle Internationale of October 11th gives the following interesting account of what the Soviets have done for public health in Russia:—

The extremely low level of hygiene in Russia, the formidable high percentage of diseases among the population, and the constant epidemics, have always been a sad feature of Czarist Russia, and during the last twenty years have presented a striking contrast with the rapid economic development of Russia, and with the progress of the political conscience of the masses. There existed no sanitary legislation, and the whole of the medical profession outside the police doctors, who were confined to their police work, was left to the goodwill of the local administration and the Zemstvos. The latter, always in the hands of the well-to-do, often neglected the sanitary needs of the working-class. The Kerensky Government did nothing effective in this direction, although the war had made matters much worse, and had caused frightful epidemics of typhus and small-pox. It was only the revolution of October which instituted the Commissariat of Public Health, whose aim is to co-ordinate the medical and sanitary work of the whole country under one central management, provided with all the necessary money, personnel and institutions. After a year of work, Russia, which started so far behind Western Europe, is now well ahead of it. The fight has been energetically taken up against epidemics, the scourge of Old Russia, and the result of an Imperialistic war. The Commissariat began its fight against cholera in 1918, and, thanks to the strenuous measures ordered and enforced, only 35,000 people were attacked by the disease, instead of 200,000 as in 1908. In this campaign preventive vaccination and the sterilisation of water was extensively used. All those infected with cholera were sent to hospitals, and the campaign against the disease was conducted according to a plan wisely elaborated and carried out everywhere. For the study of Spanish influenza scientific experiments were undertaken, which gave precise information on the nature and character of this epidemic. A special commission is actually collecting the material and preparing it for publication. After Spanish influenza typhus appeared, which reached the worst stage in the spring of this year, and despite the great number of people infected, the mortality was surprisingly low, being hardly six per cent. The epidemic chiefly attacked the towns, where there was a shortage of food. The Commissariat did its best to get the people to assist in the work, and aimed at the destruction of all transmitting agents of typhus, the best means to stamp out the disease. In this campaign the Commissariat spent *two hundred million roubles*. It organised, in Moscow alone, nine thousand hospital beds for typhus; in the district of Moscow, more than ten thousand.

Everywhere measures to ensure hygiene were provided free of charge, including the opening of public baths, laundries, and disinfecting establishments. To see to the execution of these arrangements, Commissions of workers were created in the towns, whose duty it was to attend to cleanliness, and they had very extensive powers. The results were most satisfactory. Meanwhile the Commission supported the initiative of vaccination and innoculation with serums. A Commission for the study of typhus was instituted, with considerable sums at its disposal. On the 3rd of July, a solemn sitting of the Bacteriological Society was held, where the famous Martsinovsky read an historical report on the work dealing with the discovery of the exanthematic typhus microbe. The epidemic is now over. Against small-pox an effective measure, hitherto thought impossible in Russia, has been applied, namely, compulsory vaccination—decreed on the 10th of April. In the meantime considerable sums were assigned and vaccine was sent free into the provinces; courses of vaccination were organised. This measure is already being applied throughout Russia. All infectious diseases must now be notified. A recent decree allows bacteriological institutes and laboratories preparing serums and vaccines large sums for their equipment. These institutions have been multiplied, and more are being opened at Voronej and Orel. The microbiological institute at Saratov is already open. A controlling station at Moscow, with a branch at Petrograd, tests these serums and vaccines. The Commissariat has a special section dealing with disinfectants, which this year organised several courses, and has published several manuals on the subject. A Commission was sent to the district of Astrakhan to study the different forms of plague, and an anti-plague conference was held at Saratov in July.

All hospitals and ambulances are run at the expense of the Government. The first grant of one milliard, three hundred thousand roubles was divided among the provinces. The nationalised chemists' shops were placed under the sanitary departments of the Soviets. The Commissariat supplied them direct with medicaments from their depots. The effect of this nationalisation has been to give the public considerable and immediate benefits, by supplying them with medicines cheap and of good quality.

On 1st June a law was passed for the sanitary protection of dwelling-houses. This decree, which is infinitely superior to all the measures applied in Europe, institutes in all Russia a sanitary inspection of all dwelling-houses. Courses are organised to prepare sanitary inspectors of dwellings, and special manuals have already been published. A model station for purifying water is now at work in Moscow. As regards school hygiene, steps of the utmost value have been taken, dealing with medical attendance for the pupils, special care for abnormal children, holiday colonies for children who are weak and ill, etc. A decree institutes the free maintenance of children under the sanitary supervision of the local sanitary sections. The pupils are fed at the expense of the State. At Moscow there is an institute of physical culture, which co-operates with the section of scholastic hygiene. The Commissariat has taken decisive steps against such illness as tuberculosis and venereal disease. Conforming with the methodical plan established, the section for the protection from tuberculosis has opened in each district a fixed number of beds for tubercular cases, many dispensaries, colonies for special children, and courses of prophylactic propaganda. The section has numerous excellently organised sanitoria in the neighbourhood of Moscow. Leaflets have been published on the different forms of venereal disease.

The Commissariat has centralised under its direction the medical treatment in the army, navy, on the railways and waterways. This fusion has done much to make it possible to stop epidemics.

The Commissariat, aware of the importance of propaganda on hygiene, has organised a special branch for instruction and medical publications. It has set up at Moscow a museum of social hygiene, exhibitions dealing with contageous diseases, and has published popular pamphlets on different subjects of health, which have run into millions of copies. Since May a central medical library in Moscow, containing over thirty thousand volumes, has been open to the public. The Commissariat convened two conferences of bacteriologists and of epidemiologists, two conferences of the local sanitary branches, a pharmaceutical conference, and one of dentists, a conference on school hygiene, a central institute of health including four sections, which will form the superior scientific establishment of the Republic in the fields of health, epidemiology and bacteriology.

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TIGHT BINDING.

BETWEEN OURSELVES. By L. A. Motler.

CODLIN OR SHORT?

The November Elections will soon be coming round, Henry. Some volunteer clerk of the Municipal Progressives will be looking up the Election Register and other interesting annals of crime. In due course you will receive a letter addressed "Y 12345, Henry Dubb, Esq." with the number of the Park Lane Mansion in which you reside.

The volunteer clerk of the Citizen Reformers will likewise get the same brilliant idea, and the Labour Party will follow. Or you may get all three letters on the same date.

You will then have three programmes of nice promises to select from, and you will be invited to put a cross against the name of the one who makes the most varied selection of promises, from a reduction in the rates which you don't pay (directly) to the new style of wooden hut you don't wan't to live in.

The question, however, will remain—are you to vote for Codlin or Short, or for the Labour man?

But that isn't really the question. The question is, what is the purpose of these Municipal Elections?

You live in a house—or may be two rooms,—and you have gas, coal, water, and rent to worry you. As it would be impossible in these days of enlightened civilisation in our large cities, for a man to provide his own gas, fetch his own water, and dig his own coal, the Municipality provides you with this.

For a consideration, of course.

Some Municipalities do not provide you with anything of the sort, but they draw rates all the same. They provide police, street lighting and repairing, and draw up rules and regulations, and bye-laws, of which you never hear unless you are threatened with the County Court.

These Municipalities exist, so they say, for the comfort and well-being of the citizens. As a matter of fact, they exist for the benefit of a remarkably small group of people who own property. The benefits you derive from having a Municipality consist mostly in a workhouse, defective trams and a police court.

If there is anything the vast mass of workers in a town or city derive from the presence of a Town Council, I am prepared to hear of it.

Now, what exactly do the workers in any given place want? They want, first of all, a job. There are yet a million men seeking work; indeed Sir Auckland Geddes said the other day that the war had been the cause of making a million people seek work who did not need to do so before the war.

The next thing a man needs is a house. Then come food, clothing, and amusements. Where is the Municipality, drawing rates and taxes, that provides all these? And if a Municipality, feeling the sad effects of an unemployed procession, offers work to them, what happens?

You will find that most of the ratepayers, chiefly tradesmen, active and retired, hold an indignation meeting and the local paper comes out with gory headlines like these: "Wastrels Squandering Your Money."

These tradesmen, having made a "nest-egg" (or in process of making one) out of your groceries, beer and baccy, are the first to let out a yell as soon as they are asked to disgorge their plunder at the rate of a ha'penny in the pound. Figures are made up to prove that the Municipal rate is 22s. 4d. in the pound. Which, as the Good Book has it, is absurd.

The fact is that the Municipality is about as much use to you as is a Mission to the Hottentot Heathen. A Municipality can no more provide you with jobs, houses, food and clothing, than can the Man in the Moon.

Jobs, food, clothing, and houses are a national affair at present. In fact, an international affair.

All the jobs, all the food, all the clothes, all the houses are held by a few men. As Sir L. G. Chiozza Money says in "Riches and Poverty":—

> "A mere handful of people owns the nation. It is probably true that a group of about 120,000 people owns about two-thirds of the entire accumulated wealth of the United Kingdom."

And the same is true of every country where there are workers and masters.

These jobs, this food, these clothes, these houses are controlled by these few people, and they ask their own terms. The people must either submit, as they are now doing, or dispossess these few "owners."

This cannot be done by making a cross on a Municipal voting paper. Nor on a Parliamentary voting paper. Nor on any other old scrap.

At present things are made to sell—at a profit. If there is no profit on anything, there are no jobs in that trade. The few owners of everything control what shall be made and what shall not, never mind what the nation wants.

As the workers created everything that exists, naturally all these things are the rightful property of the workers. In taking these things out of the hands of the few "owners"—it may be Socialism, or Communism, or even Bolshevism,—the workers are only taking back what belongs to them.

When you take back your watch from the pickpocket who failed to make a "get-away" with it, you don't make him a present of it if he calls you a Bolshevik, do you?

SOCIALIST ACTIVITY ABROAD.

BOHEMIA

Socialist Unions Grow Rapidly.

The confederation of Czecho-Slovak Trade Unions (Odborove Sdruzenieskolovanske), founded in 1887, has since the fall of Austria-Hungary recorded remarkable success. Of course, it does not date from the formation of the Czecho-Slovak nation as an independent state. The following is a brief statistical sketch of its development:—

1897, 5,230 members; 1900, 13,146; 1905, 20,790; 1910, 60,518; 1912, 106,448; 1914, 54,646; 1915, 31,183; 1916, 28,783; 1917, 42,644; 1918, 158,887

In 1919 the federations have shown that, at the end of the month of June, the number of trade unions had reached a membership of at least 200,000. We quote the number of members of the most important federations:—

	Members. Year 1917.	Year 1918.
Metal workers	13,873	48,150
Miners	3,661	26,004
Railway workers	6,084	17,667
Textile workers	3,495	9,220
Chemical workers	466	8,345
General workers	1,167	8,345

Among the number there are 23,706 women.

The social activity of the federations is shown from the fact that the workers' delegates representing the trade union organization of all the corporations are recognized by the employers. Collective bargaining is uniformly and generally in force. The federations take part in the framing of social laws. The idea of legislation on the eight-hour day and the application of the law itself are primarily due to their work.

THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN PORTUGAL.

Madrid, October 10th. *L'Epoca* learns from Lisbon that a crowd of young extreme Socialists gathered in front of the Limoveire prison to free the sixty-eight members of the Party who were imprisoned there. Cries of "Long live anarchy and the social revolution" were heard amongst the demonstrators. The Republican Guard had to be reinforced by the military to repulse the assault. When the Communists perceived they were the weaker they moved towards the town. All shops were shut. In the People's House about 150 men established themselves, as a Soviet. The police arrested them all.

SOCIALISTIC MOVEMENT IN ROUMANIA.

We learn from Roumania that the agitation against the imperialist policy of the bojars is growing, especially with regard to Hungary, which is to be subdued by White Terror, and then annexed. A mutiny has broken out amongst the sailors at Galatz and Konstanza. Twenty-four men were arrested, and three of them shot. In Bukarest a secret press was discovered, where revolutionary leaflets were printed and manifestos to soldiers and workers. This discovery led to the arrest of seven persons.

SOCIALISTS ABANDON PARLIAMENT.

At the First National Congress of the Socialist Party of Mexico, the Secretary advised the delegates to bid good-bye to parliamentary methods and go in for revolutionary Socialism. The delegates have since debated this question, and declared themselves for revolutionary Socialism, at the same time voting in favour of joining the Third International.

FINNISH SOCIALIST PARTIES.

The "Left" Socialists at Viborg secured 3,303 votes for the party Congress as against 705 votes for the "Right" candidates.

THE DANISH SOCIALISTS.

The Danish Socialist Congress is over. With the exception of seven votes the proposal of the committee was accepted. By a big majority it refuted the tactics and system of the Bolsheviks, and decided to remain in the Second International.

BOHEMIA.

We learn from *L'Humanité* that the Socialists of Bohemia have joined the Moscow International.

THE POLISH WORKERS AGAINST THE WAR.

The Supreme Council of the Polish Social-Democratic Party has issued a proclamation to the workers. This is the text, which we take from the *Avanti*!:—

"*The bloody war shows no signs of coming to an end. The number of dead and wounded continues to grow. The Polish troops advance eastwards; they occupy territories which are not Polish, they force their way to the Dvina and the Dneiper. The Polish workers must protest and demand the cessation of this war.*

"The bourgeoisie and its hired assassins excite the people because the war does not end. The landed classes aim at further conquests and possession in the east. They try to retake the lost lands, to expropriate the peasants and to re-establish old privileges.

"The war in Poland is at the same time a move of the reactionaries to impede social reforms and the regeneration of the working-class. Our country has need of peace. A hundred thousand youths have been torn from productive work to engage in war—the evil work of destruction. An entire railway system is at the service of the military, while it could be used for the transport of the necessities of life. Winter is nearing, and the Polish working-class families are menaced by famine. A catastrophe is inevitable. The just and reasonable demands of the workers are always denied. In the villages, injustice rules, speculation and monopolisation continue. Two-thirds of the imports are being devoted to the war. Unemployment, misery, and famine prostrate the people. But the people no longer wish to be the slaves of imperialism. Poland is being used to police Europe. The workers must act so that these things cease. All the international workers are united in opposing imperialism.

"Down with the war! Long live the international solidarity of the workers!"

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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The RUSSIAN REVOLUTION IN DANGER.

The British munitions are strangling the Russian Revolution. Denikin advances constantly with terrible and ever more certain menace.

British workers, sailors, dockers, engineers, what are you doing?

You are helping the master-class to exterminate your brothers; to crush the hope of Communism throughout the world!

The Southport Labour Party Conference decided to organise a general strike to stop the war on Soviet Russia. To the Executive was left the task of making arrangements with the Trade Unions and the duty of fixing the day. The joint executive did nothing: it disobeyed orders.

The spirit of the Glasgow Trade Union Congress which followed was also emphatically for the strike, and its executive—the Parliamentary Committee—was censured because it had failed to call a delegate conference to decide the question. The Parliamentary Commitee was now ordered to call this conference immediately. Why has the conference not been called?

The Russian Revolution is being strangled not by the Government, but by the half-hearted officials who pretend to lead the workers, but who are merely marking time. They will mark time until when, as they expect, the Revolution is destroyed and none need fear it. They will use their post-mortem sympathy for it to secure cheap cheers from those unsophisticated members of the working class who are politically asleep to day.

We address ourselves not to the avowed enemies of the Workers' Revolution, Thomas, Henderson, Macdonald and their like, but to its so-called friends—Smillie, Williams Hodges, Cramp, Bromley.

What are these men doing in this hour of crisis?

They will protest, no doubt, that they are outnumbered by their reactionary colleagues on the Committees, but if that is so, why do they not denounce the reactionaries and appeal to the workers for support against them?

They will object that their desire for solidarity within the movement seals their lips, so that the truth cannot pass them. To argue thus is to betray the rank and file—but what genuine solidarity can there be in the workers' movement whilst for the most part the officials are traitors to the workers and have joined the master class in its struggle to keep them in subjection?

If Smillie, Williams, Cramp, Hodges and Bromley were in truth keenly alive to the workers' interests, keenly alive, far-seeing and earnest to serve them well, they would denounce the traitors within the movement as more dangerous to the cause of working-class emancipation than the very capitalists themselves!

If the railway strike had been absolutely lost the other day, who would have been guilty but the men who were reluctant to call a general strike of the workers to support the railwaymen?

Workers! We appeal to you not to wait for the timid opportunists who presume to lead you. Only the General Strike and the sabotage of munitions can save the Soviets.

Awake then, and in acting for yourselves without leaders, register a vow that you will fling from your executive organs everyone who has not taken an active part in bringing about the General Strike against the intervention in Russia. That issue is the test of their value to the workers' cause, both nationally and internationally. But remember that you cannot eject these men without preparation, without nominating others to replace them, without openly discussing the failure of their stewardship.

And, meanwhile, Russia is being strangled. Our fellow-workers there have endured a state of war for six years in a country ill-prepared for war.

The superior technique of British munitions presses them hard. At Tula are the most important munition factories of the Soviets. Denikin is approaching it. Should he succeed in capturing it the position of the Red Army will be seriously undermined.

British workers, your labour is being used to strangle the Russian Revolution.

Both through your political and your industrial organs, you have demanded a conference to decide what action to take in order to put an end to this outrage.

Why is not the Conference called?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

THE RED ARMY OF TURIN.

On September 24th, the Socialist Party of Turin had decided to hold an open air demonstration to protest against war on the question of Fiume.

On the eve of the demonstration it was forbidden by the police. The local edition of the "Avanti," (which is printed in the town and has a daily circulation of 80,000 in the province of Turin), announced on the morning of the 24th, that the Committees of the Socialist Party, the Socialist clubs, the Young Socialists, the Co-operative Alliance, and the Trade Unions, as well as workshops delegates, would meet that evening in the Camera del Lavoro to decide what to do.

5,000 delegates from these organisations met in the great Hall of the Camera that evening. They had to stand as there was not room to seat so many people, and for hours they stood discussing what to do. Finally it was decided to hold the meeting on October 2nd. The police prohibition remained, but 40,000 people assembled. The crowd was too vast for the police and military to attempt to disperse, at least so it seemed, for the meeting was allowed to proceed.

Presently however a small organised gang of men tried to cause disorder by pushing their way roughly through the crowd.

Then the soldiers and police began to beat the people, and the soldiers fired. The shots were answered by revolver fire from the workers. The masses of unarmed people struck out vigorously with their fists in self defence.

The Socialist Red Army of Turin, well armed and efficiently trained, was present to defend the meeting but the entire crowd of working people displayed both bravery and discipline.

Finding the task of dispersing the gathering greater than they had anticipated, the police and military retired. Four soldiers were wounded and two police high officials—four workers were very slightly wounded.

The Red Army of Turin is the first to be formed in Italy: it consists as yet, of only about 250 men, but it is shortly to be extended and even whilst we were visiting the Camera del Lavoro a meeting was being held to discuss the military organisation of the people.

The Socialist Party has many members who have had military experience as officers as well as in the ranks.

It will be seen that the Italian Socialists are beginning to prepare for the revolution in earnest.

It is interesting to note that one-third of the Turin delegation to the Socialist Party Congress just concluded in Bologna, consisted of "Abstentionists" from Parliamentary action.

ORGANISE NOW!

Italian Socialists are organising on practical lines to oppose the forces of reaction which they realise will be used against them. They are not content to "wait and see" what will happen when the revolution breaks out, they are preparing *now*. What are we going to do in this country?

The following is their appeal to the delegates at the Socialist Congress. An outline of their organisation of Red Scouts and Cyclists is appended.

IMPORTANT.

For the United Organisations of Red Scouts and Cyclists.

To the Comrade Delegates to the XVI. Socialist Congress!

We respectfully beg your Sections to draw the attention of the comrades to the urgent necessity of creating, as soon as possible, the first nucleus of our militia for propaganda and action, so that the whole of the Italian territory may be covered with a solid network of *Squadrons of Red Scouts and Cyclists*, for the initial purposes which are stated below.

For further particulars apply to the Federation of Red Scouts and Cyclists of the Province of Milan, Via Silvio Pellico 8, Milan, which has taken the initiative in forming groups of such squadrons, which later on will constitute the National Confederation.

The Executive Committee of the Fed. R.S. and C., Prov. of Milan.

THE PRELIMINARY OBJECTS OF THE ORGANISATION OF R.S. AND C.

RED SCOUTS are composed of the members of the Socialist Party, and their object is to garrison effectively the proletarian institutions (Socialist Societies, Leagues, Co-operative Societies, Red printing presses, etc.) against enemy attack. This task—which should be absolutely organic, disciplined, and continuous—is entirely under the control of the various Socialist Societies or Federations.

RED CYCLISTS constitute the *mobile* department of the Red Scouts. Their activities are divided into two different periods.

In the normal period of propaganda they maintain a close contact with the various provincial Socialist Societies, conveying orders, communications, etc., from headquarters. They take part in Socialist demonstrations held in their districts. They protect speakers when necessary. They form advance guards to carry the Socialist doctrines into localities where our propaganda is unknown, etc.

In periods of agitation they give every assistance to the Red Scouts, acting as dispatch riders, or protectors, as the case may require.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

PETROGRAD DEFIANT.

As we go to Press, we learn that Petrograd, so often reported to have fallen, is still in the hands of the Bolsheviks. All railways leading to the city are said to have fallen into enemy hands, thus isolating that great city. Food, at no time plentiful, will now become scarcer and help to weaken the resistance of the war-weary Russians.

General Yudenitch may have taken Petrograd before this issue is printed. The prospect of such a force entering Petrograd is fearful—an enemy sure to be revenged on its fellow-countrymen strikes one as the most horrible of all.

A Moscow telegram announced the intention of the Bolsheviks to fight Yudenitch to the last, even should he succeed in capturing Petrograd. Trotsky describes the attitude of the Bolsheviks and the reported successes of Yudenitch as follows:—

Yudenitch's successes are those of a cavalry raid. Troops are being sent to the assistance of Petrograd, and the Petrograd workers rose first of all. Despite the means of the Stock Exchange jackals of all lands, Petrograd will not fall. It will stand. The working class will defend it this time.

THE CAUSE OF THE BRITISH BLOCKADE OF SOVIET RUSSIA.

Some further details of the recent Lockhart revelations are published in *Folkets Dagblad Politiken*. An American journalist writes that after the Brest Litovsk Peace every Entente officer in Russia helped Trotsky to organise the Red Army, and was interested to do so by the Military Missions, as a strong Red Army was considered the best means of binding German troops in the East. The American journalist quotes a letter from Lockhart, received by him while the Entente officers co-operated with Trotsky.

"The British Government learns from a most reliable source that the Soviets in Turkestan are engaged in a powerful agitation for a democratic peace on the basis of self-determination of the peoples. Turkestan is separated from India only by a small portion of Afghanistan. The Modammedan agitation in Turkestan for self-determination will, if unchecked, spread very soon to India."

The correspondent adds that it is easy to see how disastrous this would be for England, and adds that fear of the spread of Bolshevism eastward is *the innermost cause* of the blockade and the British invasion of Russia.

COST OF LIVING.

It is officially announced that the cost of living has risen another five per cent during September. The bread subsidy, which the Prime Minister says may be withdrawn, will necessarily make the cost of living for the workers increase enormously. Where are the Government promises to lower prices? By degrees we shall see all the props of the Coalition disappear.

THE SERVANTS OF INDIA LEAGUE.

The representative of Indian Labour at the Washington Congress is Mr. Joshi, of the "Servants of India Society." That he belongs to that Society is the sole argument brought forward in justification of the mission on which he has gone to Washington. When readers realise that it is a Society with patrons, some of whom employ about 80,000 workers at wages averaging at 8d., per day, the matter gains another aspect. In fact it savours greatly of a benevolent society, out to do good to the "workers" as such.

Rumour has it that Mr. Joshi was a guest of the British Government at the Ritz Hotel during his sojourn here on his way to America.

Let no one run away with the idea that Indian LABOUR is represented at the Congress. It has not even been consulted as to its wishes!

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR.

Labour from these islands is to be represented at the Washington Conference by the following. *We* want to know, does British Labour approve?

Government Delegates.—Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P. Sir Malcolm Delevinge.

Employers' Delegate.—Mr. D. S. Marioribanks (Managing Director of Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne).

Workpeople's Delegate.—Mr. G. H. Stuart Bunning. The technical advisers who will accompany the delegates are as follows:—

Government Advisers.—Dr. T. M. Legne (Chief Medical Inspector of Factories). Mr. G. Bellhouse (Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories). Miss Constance Smith (Senior Lady Inspector of Factories). Mr. J. F. G. Price (Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Labour). Mr. I. H. Mitchell (Assistant Industrial Commissioner, Ministry of Labour).

Advisers to Employers' Delegate.—Mr. A. J. C. Ross (Messrs. Hawthorn Leslie and Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne). Mr. Wilfred Howard Williams (Assistant-Manager, London and North-Western Railway). Mr. G. S. Maginness (Assistant-Manager, Messrs. Kynoch's, Ltd., Birmingham). Dr. Stephen Miall (of the Brimsdown Lead Co., Brimsdown). Mrs. Bertha Marjoribanks.

Advisers to Labour Delegate.—Mr. Arthur Henderson*, M.P., Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., Mr. A. Onions, M.P. (Miners' Federation). Mr. T. Shaw, M.P. (Wearers' Association). Mr. J. Sexton, M.P. (Transport Workers). Miss Margaret Bondfield (Women Workers). Miss Mary Macarthur (Industrial Women's Organisation).

* Now not going on account of political situation at home.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The coming elections are giving excellent opportunities to candidates of progressive tendencies to introduce municipal control and not "Government control." The Municipal Reformers' candidates are poisoning the minds of the people against any central control by pointing out that the present "Government control" of coal and railways is the style of system advocated by Labour. Will the Labour candidates dispel this most libellous statement!

FORTY-EIGHT HOUR WEEK.

The Government objects to the extending of the proposed 48 Hour Week Bill, shortly to be passed through Parliament, to seamen and agricultural labourers. All other countries are demanding a much shorter week with more success.

ANOTHER ALIEN BILL.

America has introduced an Alien Immigration Bill with the object of stopping the influx of Germans after the signing of Peace. The English language must be studied by all aliens, and naturalisation papers applied for by those who have resided in America for a period of five years.

WAR ON SOVIET RUSSIA.

At the Glasgow Conference in September, a resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority—demauding the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Russia—failing this being accomplished, the Conference decided to call a SPECIAL Trade Union Congress to decide what action should be taken.

Since that time the British troops have been "withdrawn" from Archangel owing to pressure brought to bear by the people resident in Archangel. But the British Fleet is able to shell Kronstadt, and all during the week contradictory press statements have been circulated announcing the fall of Kronstadt following the British attack. How can the authorities reconcile this fact with their alleged "withdrawal"? And are Trade Unionists so easily satisfied as to take the Government statements as absolute gospel?

Further the Glasgow Conference in spirit objected to any munitions being supplied to the enemies of Soviet Russia, yet members of Trade Unions are still engaged on shipping munitions to the counter-revolutionaries.

The greatest crime in the long series of crimes committed against Russia, is the appeal made by the Allied Supreme Council to Germany and the neutrals to "collaborate in ensuring a complete blockade of Soviet Russia." Where now are the resolutions to protect the Russian workers? Where the desire to establish Socialism by helping the first Socialist Republic?

Many and loud protests were made against the blockade of the Central Empires—yet here is an instance of a proposed blockade of a country, whose only crime is that it prefers Socialism to Capitalism. The Allies are not even officially at war with Russia, and they intend tightening still further the most cowardly and cruel instrument of warfare round the necks of the half-starving population of Soviet Russia. Mark this, the appeal stated "Soviet Russia." What Soviet Russia has done towards rebuilding that country is repeatedly related in our columns, and in another part of this issue fresh evidence is brought forward proving how reasonable men—not necessarily Socialists—appreciate the work of the Soviets.

But let us ask again what is Soviet Russia? It is the Russia of the workers: to vote in that Russia you must WORK. Are we going to see our fellow-workers forced by starvation to abandon their great ideal? Does the late war teach us nothing? Have we not seen how all instruments of warfare used against the Central Empires are being gradually mobilised against strikers? Even in free America the use of gas shells is being advocated as a means of dispelling mobs. Will not a system of blockade be equally as feasible a weapon against British strikers or "rebels" as against Russian Revolutionaries?

The time to help Russia is NOW, for never since the Bolshevik Revolution has the position of our fellow-workers in Russia been so critical.

The straight questions addressed to Mr. Balfour by the Labour Party are timely; but how callous the expression "early consideration" when one realises all that is now at stake!

The Executive Committee of the Labour Party asks:—

"(1) Is the withdrawal of British troops from Archangel accurately described as an evacuation by the British forces? or

(2) Are there still a number of British troops, including volunteer detachments and technical instructors, still remaining in the territories formerly included in the Russian Empire, with the exception of Trans-Caucasia?

(3) To what extent is assistance being rendered to Koltchak and Denikin, by way of money, supplies, and military equipment?

(4) Upon what date is it proposed that military action in Russia, in this or any other form, shall cease?

(5) Whether the Government is placing any obstacle in the way of the Peace negotiations in progress between the Baltic State Governments and the Soviet Government?

(6) What restrictions, if any, are still being placed by British naval forces upon maritime trade between Russia and neutral countries via the Baltic?

This last query is suggested by the reported statement by the Swedish Government, in reply to an inquiry from the Swedish Metal Workers' Union, that it cannot afford protection to Swedish vessels carrying medical supplies to Petrograd, owing to the possibility that this might lead to war between Sweden and the Allied Governments."

The letter asks the Foreign Secretary to give these questions his "early consideration."

M. O 'C.

LABOUR NOTES.

SOLIDARITY.

A recent issue of the *Berner Tagwacht* reports that the Scandinavian trade unions have decided to raise a guarantee fund of ten million kronen. With this sum German trade unions will be enabled to buy food and other necessaries of life in Scandinavia at the Scandinavian valuta. Sweden is to contribute four million of the loan and Denmark and Norway three million each. The Norwegian workers declare that they have always been treated with kindness by German workers, and therefore want to help them over this difficult time when the purchasing value of the mark has dwindled away so.

AMERICAN STEEL STRIKE.

To convey some idea of the many unions involved in the steel strike we reprint them in detail from the International Labour News Service:—

Blacksmiths, International Brotherhood of: Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders of America, Brotherhood of: Brick and Clay Workers, United: Bricklayers, Plasterers and Masons, International Union of America; Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, International Association of: Coopers' International Union: Electrical Workers, International Brotherhood of; Foundry Employés, International Brotherhood of: Hod Carriers', Building and Common Labourers' Union of America, International; Iron, Steel and Tinplate Workers, Amalgamated Association of: Machinists, International Association of: Metal Polishers' Union of North America: Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, International Union of; Mine Workers of America, United: Moulders' Union of North America, International: Pattern Makers' League of North America: Plumbers and Steam Fitters United Association of: Quarry Workers' International Union of North America: Railway Carmen of America, Brotherhood of; Seamen's Union of America, International: Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance, Amalgamated: Stationary Firemen and Oilers, International Brotherhood of; Steam and Operating Engineers, International Union of: Steam Shovel and Dredgemen, International Brotherhood of; Switchmen's Union of North America.

THE STRENGTH OF ORGANISATION.

In Brooklyn, U.S.A., six members of the Movers' Union came to evict 450 families of rent strikers who occupied seventeen five-storey apartment houses. Six women strikers met the men and asked them were they Union men. They said they were, and the women showed their Union cards, too The Union men called a sympathetic strike then and there with the rent strikers, and walked out, leaving the amazed marshal alone in a room on the top floor of 445, Flushing-avenue, where he had intended to start eviction operations.

If all Unions had a similar spirit there would be less victimisation.

THE 44-HOUR WEEK.

The Building Workers at Maritzburg have won the 44-hour week and threepence per hour rise.

Last September the Master Builders' Association of South Africa adopted the 44-hour week "in principle," but left arrangements to local discussion But the Johannesburg building workers had to strike for *three months* in order to get it. The Bloemfontein men had to fight for the principle—adopted "in principle"; the Capetown Master Builders have refused it as a fact, having endorsed it as "a principle," and now the Queenstown workers are agitating for the same pious hope of the masters to become a fact for the workers.

FATE OF RUSSIAN PRISONERS IN GERMANY.

We learn from *L'Humanité* of October 12th that the Supreme Council of the Allies has adopted a report of the Council of Versailles recommending the formation of an international commission, sitting in Berlin, and exercising control over all Russian prisoners in Germany. The Council has also accepted in principle the request of General Denikin and Admiral Koltchak that *all Russian war material captured by the Germans during the war should be handed over to them.* The inter-allied commission of control in Germany will be instructed to carry out this measure.

AN ANSWER TO BUKHARIN.

In the second act of Wagner's great drama, *Parsifal*, his boy-hero suddenly wakes up to the fact that the great King of the Grail, the chief of the warrior priests who lived round the Temple of the Grail, the leader of them all, was himself a sinner; and even more pitiable than most sinners, because a wound which he had got in his unlawful adventure was still bleeding, still smarting; indeed, it seemed destined never to heal.

And this man was the guardian of the Holy Grail, the symbol of Love and Truth.

As the realisation flashes upon Parsifal, he turns away from the gay gardens of luxury, grasps his spear more firmly, and using it as a staff, he trudges out alone towards the bleak mountain side. A woman tries to bar his path, offering him everything she can give, if only he will stay and love her. He pushes on. The dawn begins to break behind the mountain peaks. He hastens his step.

"Too long already have I lingered," he declares, "there is great work ahead. I must rescue the holy thing from the unhallowed hands that have held it for so long."

I tell this story because it seems to me that in all ages it is the task of the young, the strong, and the sensitive, to rescue the Truth from unhallowed hands wherever they are holding it. You people who are sensitive to suffering and injustice, you who are strong to bear the taunts and ridicule which are constantly levelled against us Socialists, you who are young and love adventures, it is your job to rescue Truth from unhallowed hands.

We know that religion and science have often been used by those in power to hold people in subjection. We know that the rich have often paid priests and preachers to persuade working people to form habits which their employers would never dream of practising themselves. We know that science has often been debased to the vile use of exploiting the workers; and when we realise how religion and science have been distorted thus, some of us are hasty in disgust and impatience, and say, "Away with religion and science."

But that way madness lies.

It is a fool who will discard bread for evermore because his baker was discovered to have dirty pans and ovens. Religion and science are paths hewn out painfully by explorers and pioneers who are on fire to discover truth. Clever scheming capitalists have set up almshouses along these paths; they beseech men to enter the shelters, to stay safe inside, to rest content without pursuing their search for Truth any longer. If the travellers, in newly awakened disgust at the almshouses, fling themselves off the path altogether and desert it, the plans of the schemes will be crowned with a success for which they hardly dared to hope.

For an instance, you know the splendid series of articles on Soviet Russia that have delighted DREADNOUGHT readers for weeks past; in the issue of September 20th, N. Bukharin wrote on "Religion." One could read between the lines that the writer had been stung to his very soul by the flagrant prostitution of intellect which was practised in Russia under the name of religion, in order to propagate tyranny. Priests and princes had been very successful in their evil designs, but perhaps their crowning success was to be found in that article where N. Bukharin calls on us to despise religion, and to leave the adventurous paths along the breezy uplands on which the light of dawn is beginning to shine.

Probably the writer is perfectly unconscious of the tendency of his remarks, and is as eager for the search after truth as any of us, but he has said many things which can only lead to muddled, sloppy, thinking.

It has been an interesting task to analyse his article and to notice how time after time he has got at the heart of a truth, and then, by a loose sentence or two, has drawn from it a false inference. His science is somewhat thin and doctrinaire. Primitive religion is supposed by scientists to have had a far more interesting origin than he sketches for it. Like the Inquisitors, he lays down positive dogmas concerning many things that no one can be certain about. Unless it is due to a mistranslation his psychology is definitely false. His derivations of certain words are boggled; he takes a modern word unknown 2,000 years ago, and states that the Bible says that word describes God.

To speak of God as a ferocious old man is to go back to the dark ages; but the conception of God as Love, on which Christianity is based, has never been surpassed. The character of God can be seen in the life of Jesus; the churches may apostasize but they cannot alter the truth.

The story of how man's primitive fears, and dreams, and cravings developed into the spirit of freedom, fellowship, and undaunted faith in human nature, and in the Law of Love, which is God, forms a perfectly fascinating study, which most of us, alas! have only time to dip into occasionally. N. Bukharin does not even visualise it. No wonder! There is little free time for those engaged in the great task of propaganda for Soviet Russia. It is also possible that the poison growth of bitterness may have taken such firm root in his heart that it has obscured the mind also. Bitterness is the plant which always flourishes under the capitalist system. No one can be surprised! It simply means that we must all try harder than ever to rescue the precious things from the unhallowed hands of their guardians, so that in future we may all have fulness and completeness of life.

MURIEL LESTER.

[*The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed.*]

Irish News.

"THE THREE NOES."

The Watchword, which has succeeded the *Voice of Labour* in Dublin, puts Ireland's policy thus:—"No Home Rule. No Partition. No Surrender. Let England do her worst."

WELL DONE, SINN FEIN!

The Sinn Fein Annual Convention was held at midnight on the night of the 16th, because the authorities had proclaimed it. The spectacle of soldiers and police surrounding the mansion the day after the Midnight Convention must have amused those who had so successfully defeated this new act of oppression.

* * * *

In reply to the Dublin Castle statement regarding political crimes in Ireland, the Sinn Fein organisation has issued the following statement of alleged outrages committed by the British Government from May 1st, 1916, up to date:—

Murders	58
Deportations	2,000
Armed assaults on unarmed civilians	431
Raids on private houses	5,000
Arrests	5,400
Sentences	2,000
Proclamations and suppressions	292
Newspaper suppressions	51
Courts-martial	524
This gives a total of	16,556

[The return of outrages attributed to the Sinn Fein movement issued from Dublin Castle on Sunday night gave a total of 1,293 offences, including 16 murders, 60 assaults, 66 cases of firing at persons, and 478 raids for arms.]

COERCION IN IRELAND.

For the week ending October 4th, there were 70 raids, 15 arrests, 4 sentences, 16 proclamations and suppressions, 203 armed assaults, 1 court-martial; total, 309.

A large body of English troops raided and suppressed a sports' meeting at Thurles, Co. Tipperary, in which town the usual weekly market was also suppressed. At Dundrum, in the same county, a fête to procure funds for carrying on the local schools was suppressed by large forces of military and police fully armed.

COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ.

We are glad to welcome Countess Markievicz back to work after her enforced inactivity in Cork Gaol. Sinn Feiners should keep her at liberty now.

HUNGER STRIKERS.

Sinn Fein prisoners who went on hunger strike in Mountjoy Gaol, because the Government promise to treat them as political prisoners has not been kept, have been released.

HELP IRISH SOCIALISTS.

The Socialist Party of Ireland appeals to all class conscious workers in Britain, and especially to those Irishmen who are domiciled in Great Britain through economic circumstances, for funds to enable us to carry on the work begun by James Connolly. We are in some financial straits, and unless help is forthcoming we will be unable to carry on as we should during the winter. We know that many calls are being made upon the workers, yet we feel confident our appeal will not be in vain.

The difficulties before the Socialist Party of Ireland have never seemed so insurmountable—on the one hand we have the military despotism preventing us from even holding lectures, and on the other the hostility of the various bourgeois political groups, who see in the party a menace to the exploitation of the workers, who labour under the delusion that the only enemy they have is the British Government. In spite of everything, we are determined to win. Since Easter, 1916, the S.P.I. has been re-organised, and as proof of the fighting spirit in the class conscious Irish worker—many of those who held responsible commands in the fighting of "Easter Week," are now in the fore-front of the fight for International Socialism and the triumph of the workers' cause; and the first step forward has been made by affiliating to the Moscow International.

SEARY MCLOUGHLIN, *President*.
M. J. O'LEARY, *Treasurer*.

Remittances can be sent to either of the above comrades at 42, North Great Georges-street, Dublin.

GERMANS ON THE BLOCKADE.

German papers are fairly agreed in denouncing the proposed blockade of Russia. They argue that Germany has been a victim of the blockade, and does not wish to join in one against Russia. Further, an effective blockade would cause a new war, and Germany does not favour that prospect.

THE MOSCOW CONSPIRACY AND THE ENTENTE.

The Judicial Authorities of Moscow, *Avanti* reports, have possession of incriminating documents showing that the last outbreak of a plot (in which the Communist theorist, Bukharin, was wounded) was organised by Entente spies, who contemplated overthrowing the Soviet régime by means of throwing bombs at the heads of the Government, and by a simultaneous seizing of the Kremlin and the public buildings.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

WHAT THE ALLIES ARE OUT TO CRUSH.

FURTHER REVELATIONS.

Mr. Bullitt's official report of his view of the state of Russia, and the impression Bolshevism made on him, was read in Washington at the recent inquiry into the state of Russia and the prospect of peace. Writing of social conditions, he said:—

Executions are extremely rare. Good order has been established. The streets are safe. Shooting has ceased. There are few robberies. Prostitution has disappeared from sight. Family life has been unchanged by the revolution. . . . . The theatres, opera, and ballet are performing as in peace. Thousands of new schools have been opened in all parts of Russia, and the Soviet Government seems to have done more for the education of the Russian people in a year and a half than Czardom did in fifty years.

The Soviet to Stay.

To those who would try to tell us that the Soviet Government is but a freak, and absolutely against the wishes of the Russian people, Mr. Bullitt's description of what he saw last March should prove convincing. It shows clearly the crime of trying to destroy a regime which in a very short space of time, and under the most adverse conditions, has won the support of the majority. The report says:—

Political Situation.

The Soviet form of government is firmly established. Perhaps the most striking fact in Russia to-day is the general support which is given the Government by the people in spite of their starvation. Indeed, the people lay the blame for their distress wholly on the blockade and on the governments which maintain it. The Soviet form of government seems to have become to the Russian people the symbol of their revolution. Unquestionably it is a form of government which lends itself to gross abuse and tyranny, but it meets the demand of the moment in Russia and it has acquired so great a hold on the imagination of the common people that the women are ready to starve and the young men to die for it. (Appendix, p. 15.)

The position of the Communist party (formerly Bolsheviki) is also very strong. Blockade and intervention have caused the chief opposition parties, the right social revolutionaries and the Menshiviki, to give temporary support to the Communists. These opposition parties have both made formal statements against the blockade, intervention, and the support of Anti-Soviet Governments by the Allied and Associated Governments. Their leaders, Volsky and Martov, are most vigorous in their demands for the immediate raising of the blockade and peace. (Appendix, p. 16.)

Indeed, the only ponderable opposition to the Communists to-day comes from more radical parties—the left social revolutionaries and the anarchists. These parties, in published statements, call the Communists, and particularly Lenin and Tchitcherin, "the paid bourgeois gendarmes of the Entente." They attack the Communists because the Communists have encouraged scientists, engineers, and industrial experts of the bourgeois class to take important posts under the Soviet Government at high pay. They rage against the employment of bourgeois officers in the army, and against the efforts of the Communists to obtain peace. They demand the immediate massacre of all the bourgeoisie and an immediate declaration of war on all non-revolutionary Governments. They argue that the Entente Governments should be forced to intervene more deeply in Russia, asserting that such action would surely provoke the proletariat of all European countries to immediate revolution.

Within the Communist party itself there is a distinct division of opinion in regard to foreign policy, but this disagreement has not developed personal hostility or open breach in the ranks of the party. Trotski, the generals, and many theorists believe the Red Army should go forward everywhere until more vigorous intervention by the Entente is provoked, which they, too, count upon to bring revolution in France and England. Their attitude is not a little coloured by pride in the spirited young army. (Appendix, p. 18.) Lenin, Tchitcherin, and the bulk of the Communist party, on the other hand, insist that the essential problem at present is to save the proletariat of Russia, in particular, and the proletariat of Europe, in general, from starvation, and assert that it will benefit the revolution but little to conquer all Europe if the Government of the United States replies by starving all Europe. They advocate, therefore, the conciliation of the United States even at the cost of compromising with many of the principles they hold most dear. And Lenin's prestige in Russia at present is so overwhelming that the Trotski group is forced reluctantly to follow him. (Appendix, p. 19.). . . . In a word, Lenin feels compelled to retreat from his theoretical position all along the line. He is ready to meet the Western Governments half-way.

Mr. Bullitt sums up his conclusions as to the possibility of restoring any other form of rule than that of Socialism thus:—

1. No Government save a Socialist Government can be set up in Russia to-day except by foreign bayonets, and any Governments so set up will fall the moment such support is withdrawn. The Lenin wing of the Communist party is to-day as moderate as any Socialist Government which can control Russia.

2. No real peace can be established in Europe or the world until peace is made with the revolution. This proposal of the Soviet Government presents an opportunity to make peace with the revolution on a just and reasonable basis—perhaps a unique opportunity.

3. It is, therefore, respectfully recommended that a proposal following the general lines of the suggestion* of the Soviet Government should be made at the earliest possible moment, such changes being made, particularly in article 4 and article 5, as will make the proposal acceptable to conservative opinion in the Allied and associated countries.

Equality of Sacrifice.

Tall stories are related of the luxury of Lenin and the various commissaries, but Mr. Bullitt gives them the lie also:—

Everyone is hungry in Moscow and Petrograd, including the people's commissaries themselves. The daily ration of Lenin and the other commissaries is the same as that of a soldier in the army or of a workman at hard labour. In the hotel which is reserved for Government officials the menu is the following: Breakfast—A quarter to half a pound of black bread, which must last all day, and tea without sugar. Dinner—A good soup, a small piece of fish, for which occasionally a diminutive piece of meat is substituted, a vegetable, either a potato or a bit of cabbage, more tea without sugar. Supper—What remains of the morning ration of bread and more tea without sugar.

* See peace terms in "W.D." of October 18th.

KOLTCHAK BROKEN.

Under the above title the *Isvestia* publishes the account of an interview with the commander of the Eastern front.

"Koltchak is five-sixths beaten and broken. His last fruitless counter-attack completed his defeat and increased the demoralisation of his troops. One of his divisions revolted, arrested the commander, and handed him over to us. The attitude of the people shows them everywhere to be in our favour.

"The union with Turkestan will now be certain, for the Kirghiz population is for us. At present a Soviet Congress of the Kirghiz working-class is being arranged. The Cossacks of Orenburg have often sent us envoys to negotiate for their transference into the Bolshevik camp."

Concerning the Southern front, the commander states he is quite optimistic.—*La Nouvelle Internationale*. 11th October.

KOLTCHAK'S ARMY ACCORDING TO ITS OWN STAFF.

The *Pravda* publishes documents from the Chief of Staff of the Fifth Division of marksmen of Koltchak's Army, which show what the Whites think of their own army.

"The division is certainly demoralised and at present far from there being hope of recovery, it is probable that the troops will exterminate their officers. The thrashings at Konstanai have had one result: desertions *en masse*.

"These floggings have produced a disastrous feeling of inhumanity and barbarity among the soldiers. Just as the expeditions of police detachments, which hold the population of no account, and flog pregnant women just because their husbands are in the Red Army, only result in exasperating the people and make them ready to welcome the Reds."

To combat the evil the Staff Officer proposes: "to exterminate the leaders after having flogged them, otherwise they will have to begin all over again. To destroy the villages in case of resistance, without troubling to flog the inhabitants, which is only a half measure. To place large posters in all the villages warning the people that all political conversation with the troops, all criticisms of the Government policy shall be punished by death. To compel the clergy to go into the trenches and excite religious ecstasy and preach against the antichrist, also the muliahs."

General Khanjin signed the following report on June 14th:—

"The Light Infantry are the refuge where generals can retire in case of a general revolt as has already happened. They are the repressive detachments directed against the units or the people who revolt. To send them to the front with the others is inadmissible."

These documents need no comment.—*La Nouvelle Internationale*.

WAR ON THE WORKERS.

ARMED PATROLS IN ENGLAND.

What are We Going To Do?

Is it not time for the workers of this country to question themselves as to their own attitude in regard to the authorities' demonstration of force.

While passing through the various cities and towns, I notice that the police, particularly the mounted, have added carbines to their equipment. These weapons, in my opinion, cannot be carried in the hope of expressing the peaceful and harmless purpose of the ruling class, but, they express a determination to be prepared, to browbeat and bully the masses in the hope of being able to control their action, rightly expressed through the strike. The most important question the workers have to consider in the face of these glaring facts is, what are we going to do to combat this growing arrogance of the bourgeoisie, and to put a stop to the arming of the police? Are we to stand by and allow them to become all powerful, with their concentration of arms and munitions, enabling them to destroy the members of our class?

Should we prepare ourselves to meet this demonstration of force? And thus remove the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie? We, who constitute the majority, the masses, are and will remain the victims of this, the minority class, so long as we allow them to be fully armed. We can never expect to secure our own emancipation.

The masses should take a lesson from the ruling class. Prepare; Organise; and Discipline ourselves; and develop the same class-consciousness for our class, with the same efficiency as the capitalists have done.—G.B.B.

PREPAREDNESS.

Standing armies are maintained in all of the great cities of the world. Chicago has 5,000; New York, 10,000 policemen. Day and night these men are detailed to keep watch and ward. Over what?

One man in the city of New York has a house that cost 5,000,000dol.; another used 200 tons of coal to keep himself and his family warm during the winter of coal famine; a woman provided with all the necessaries of life spends nearly 60,000dol. for an opera coat; silver, gold, precious stones, silks, velvets, laces, costly furnishings—all of the most gorgeous luxuries that life affords are at the disposal of the rich.

Men in the same city work 54 hours a week for 20dol., and from that 20dol. try to support a family of five. More than 200,000 children go to school hungry; cellars, sub-basements, rookeries, and attics are rented at extortionate prices for human habitation.

* * *

"Regulars" in America have been equipped with machine guns for use against strikers. The *Morning Post* Washington correspondent states that these Regulars are free from "local sympathies" and would fire on a crowd at once when ordered!

The Next War.

The French have still £600,000,000 of war material, which Mr. Lefevre stated in the French Chamber would be stored. The powder being kept dry by his own method, that of sinking it in the Pyrenean Lakes. Intensive warfare for six or eight months could be carried on, he stated, with this amount of war material. But what about the war to end war?

THAT "HIGH STANDARD."

Waitresses at the Post Office Savings Bank, Blyth-road, West Kensington, work from 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on week days and 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on Saturdays for a wage from 14/- to 18/-. One woman of twenty-five years' service is earning 18/- a week. They have now struck work, and are demanding 35/- a week, with food.

MORE VICTIMISATION.

C.O.s who were Civil Servants may now return to work as *temporary* employees, subject to a certificate of "satisfactory conduct." This means depriving them of the right of pensions.

The Federal Question.

There is a committee finding a solution for the Irish question; now there is another sitting on the Federal question. Soon everyone will be on a committee!

BRANTING'S PARTY AND THE ENTENTE.

Folkets Dagblad Politiken mentions on October 7th that P. H. Hansson, editor of *Social Demokratin*, Branting's organ, is in the pay of the *Daily Chronicle*, and acts as correspondent in ordinary to this capitalist paper. *F.D.P.* has also learnt that Branting's party received 50,000 kronor from the Northern Central Press Bureau when this Bureau, which is financed by the Entente for its own interests, took over the old Social Democratic Press Bureau, **a hopelessly bankrupt and valueless concern.**

PARK ROYAL DISPUTE.

STATEMENT BY SHOP COMMITTEE.

On 1st October the firm issued the following notice:—

We have been compelled to conform with the Federation District rate, and the week commencing Thursday, October 2nd, the maximum rates of these works will be as follows. New piece work prices will be issued as soon as possible

(The majority of the men concerned are on time rates.)

Then followed a list of rates which meant reductions varying from 3.85d. per hour to 7½d. per hour for skilled labour and 1d. to 2d. per hour for semi and unskilled labour.

A meeting of all workers followed, and ultimately came to a decision that the matter should be placed in the hands of the officials of the various Federations concerned, viz.: the A.S.E., Toolmakers, A.I.M. Society, and the General Workers' Union, in the meantime to accept the reduction under protest. The matter was raised through the Federation, and the Trade Unions refused to confer until the old rates had been re-established, using the same argument that is used by the employers when men are out on strike, with the result that the firm reverted to the old rates, but on Monday, 6th October, a notice was posted to the effect that the works would be closed and all hands discharged owing to the want of raw material due to the railway and foundry strike. The notice further stated that on the works being re-opened preference would be given to the old hands. An instruction was then issued by the District Committees concerned forbidding any Trade Unionist to accept the job unless the original rates were paid. Only a few days elapsed before members of the toolroom, winding shop, etc., received notices to the effect that their old jobs were open to them at reduced rates.

We appeal to all Trade Unionists and others to refuse to accept employment at Fellows' Magneto Co.. until the old conditions of pay are re-established.

Funds are urgently needed to carry on the dispute, so we call upon all workers to send collections and contributions to the Secretary at the Headquarters of the Committee, H. A. Teague, 154, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's Bush, W. 12.—On behalf of the Shop Committee, H. A. TEAGUE, *Secretary;* M. BRACE, *Chairman.*

SOUTH WALES NOTES.

INCOME TAX AND HIGH COST OF LIVING.

The Miners' Federation of Great Britain is holding a Special Conference on Wednesday, October 22nd, dealing particularly with the sore question of Income Tax; and having regard to the refusal of the Government to accept the proposal of the Labour Party to raise the exemption to £250 per annum. the members of the Federation refuse to pay further tax upon the present basis from the 5th April, 1919. Certain proposals for dealing with the continued high cost of living are also being discussed, with several other questions of general interest to the workers—concerning week-end work and overtime for surface workers, and continuous shift men. It is hoped that the outcome will be satisfactory, and a report of the deliberations in brief will appear in the next issue.

RHONDDA LABOUR CLASSES.

During the next six months classes are being organised at six important centres of the Rhondda valleys, the subjects dealt with being Economics and Industrial History. It is proposed to engage a full-time lecturer, who will take full charge and supervision. Many students are expected, and with this help and assistance, every success is assured.

WORK AGAIN IN FULL SWING.

Judging by reports from the various districts, it appears that a full resumption of work is general after the recent railway strike.

FOR 2/6 POST FREE

Three Marvellous Publications

ON BIRTH-CONTROL.

Thoughtful workingclass people are following the lead of the upper classes and getting wise on limitation of family.

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MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

Classified advertisements: One penny per word
Displayed advertisements: 7s. 6d. per inch.
Pre-pay and send to Manager, "Workers' Dreadnought," 152, Fleet Street, E.C. 4.

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d.—Malthusian League, 48, Broadway, Westminster

Why not Unemployment Benefit for ALL Children until they are strong enough to work and old enough to vote? (Advert.)

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In Caxton Hall, Westminster, at 8 p.m.

Lecture I. Thursday, Oct. 30th
"Creative Democracy and Natural Leadership—being a study in Catholic principle and revolutionary practice." Conrad Noel Priest of the Catholic Crusade. The Rev. Father Paul Bull. C.R., Chairman.

Lecture II. Thursday, Nov. 6th.
"The Incarnation." The Rev. S. Healy. The Rev. N. E. Egerton Swann, Chairman.

Lecture III. Thursday, Nov. 13th.
"The Resurrection." The Rev. C. Stuart Smith. Mr, George Lansbury, Chairman.

Lecture IV Thursday, Nov. 20th.
"The Kingdom of God." The Rev. P. E. T. Widdrington. Mr. Fred. Hughes, Chairman.

Tickets for the Course, 4s. Single Lectures, 6d. Can be obtained at the door, and from the Secretary, Miss E. M. Alston, 1, Manor Place, Paddington, W. 2.

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Write to the Secretary, 400, Old Ford Road, London, E.3. Telephone—East 1787.

LONDON MEETINGS—OUTDOOR.

Friday, 24th Oct. 12 noon—Canning Town, Charles B. Roberts and others.

Saturday, 25th Oct. Great Push for Communism and against Conscription and Intervention in Russia in Ealing. Meetings; 3 p.m. at Hanwell Broadway, 7 p.m. outside Kinema, W. Ealing. Speakers: C. B. Roberts, Ph. Edmunds, Melvina Walker, Minnie Birch.

Sunday, 26th Oct. 11.45 a.m.—Osborn Street, Whitechapel.; Melvina Walker. Minnie Birch.
Victoria Park, 12 noon, C. B. Roberts. W. Ponder
Hyde Park. Marble Arch. 3.30 p.m. C. B. Roberts, Melvina Walker.
7.30 p.m.—Dock Gates, Poplar. J. Tochatti, Chair—Melvina Walker.

Tuesday, 28th Oct. 12 noon—Tower Hill. H. Sara.
Friday, 31st. Oct. 12 noon—The Square Woolwich, Melvina Walker.
Saturday, 25th Oct. Great Push in Kennington.

INDOOR.

Sunday, 26th Oct. 7 p.m.—400, Old Ford Road, E.3. C. B. Roberts, P. Edmunds.
Monday, 27th Oct. 7.30 p.m.—20, Railway Street, W.S.F. Business Meeting. 8.30 p.m. Reading Circle.
Friday, 24th Oct. 7—10 p.m.—400, Old Ford Road, E.3. Dancing.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

EAST LONDON WORKERS' COMMITTEE.
Tuesday, 28th Oct, Queen's Road, corner of Dalston Lane, 7.30 p.m. Walter Pender.
Thursday, 30th Oct. 7.30 p.m.—400, Old Ford Rd., E.3. Business Meeting.

WALTHAMSTOW LEAGUE OF RIGHTS.
Tuesday, 21st Oct. 3 p.m.—William Morris Hall, Somers Road. Mrs. Fix.

W. S. F. CLASSES TO BE HELD AT 20, Railway Street, Poplar.

COURSE OF
12 INDUSTRIAL HISTORY LECTURES
Commencing Thursday, Nov. 6th at 8 p.m. sharp.

Teacher: MARK STARR, of the Lab. College

1. **A General Introduction.** Scope and purpose of the study of industrial history. Various interpretations. The Marxian Materialist Conception of History.
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7. **The Renaissance.** Intellectual reflex of the economic activity.
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9. **The Industrial Revolution.** Its effects upon (a) the masters (b) the workers.
10. **Trade Unionism.** Summary of its origin, struggles, and varying phases up to 1900
11. **The Latest Form of Capitalism.** Causes and results and cure of capitalism.
12. **Revision and the Future.** Examination of Labour Organisation from 1900 onwards. The meaning of Industrial Unionism.

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WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

PUBLIC MEETING
400, Old Ford Road, E.3.
Sunday, October 26th, at 7 p.m.
CHARLES B. ROBERTS.
Chair: PH. EDMUNDS.
Admission by Silver Collection.

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